

Innovative Housing Grants Program

CARIBBEAN EXPORT HOME

prepared by

Seven S. Structures Inc.

INTRODUCTION

This project documented the efforts and experiences of an Alberta company as they successfully applied their panelized building system to the requirements of the housing market in the Caribbean island of Antigua.

BACKGROUND

Seven S. Structures Inc., an Alberta company, has developed a stressed skin, foam-filled panel system for the factory-manufactured, site-assembled, small structures industry. Through various industry contacts, this system caught the attention of the Amicus Corporation, a company involved in residential land development on the Caribbean island of Antigua. Amicus, in joint venture with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, retained Seven S to supply in package form and subsequently install in Antigua two demonstration housing units for evaluation and market trial purposes. The Government-Amicus

joint venture encompassed the provision of up to 2,000 single family dwellings. The sale of packaged units by Seven S to the joint venture within that scope was dependent on client and public acceptance of the two demonstration units.

APPROACH

Based upon layout designs provided by an architectural consultant to the joint venture, the scope of work by Seven S included manufacture of the stressed skin panels comprising the structure, provision of fixtures and finishing materials, packaging of the units, shipment of the packaged units from the Grande Prairie manufacturing site to the Antigua job site, preparation of the job site using local labour and erection of the demonstration units, again using local labour.

The work was originally scheduled for 4 months duration, but actually required 8 months to complete. Delays were caused by

Copies of this report are available from Innovative Housing Grants Program, Alberta Municipal Affairs, 9925 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2H9 (403/427-8150). Please refer to the order number shown in box at right, when requesting copies of completed reports.

Report: 45 Pages
Date: June 1989
ISBN 0-88654-249-9

various factors including production difficulties, problems with assembling fixture and finishing packages, shipping delays and difficulties in adapting to local labour practices. Seven S was successful at overcoming the problems that arose but, as a newcomer to the export market, often had to rely on trial and error approaches. Their experience will be of particular interest to other companies contemplating the sale of their own product in the international marketplace.

RESULTS

The project has been successful. Within six months of completing the two demonstration units in August 1988, Seven S received approximately 25 orders for housing units. In this same time period, Seven S also received orders from various Antigua owners for multiple dwelling unit structures and for commercial low-rise office structures. Due largely to the success of this project, and some production problems during its course, the company has recently relocated to a larger and more efficient plant facility.